Nova Scotia Environment
2010-2011 Statement of Mandate

NOVA SCOTIA
Environment

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Message from the Minister and Deputy Minister of Environment

We are pleased to present a Statement of Mandate for Nova Scotia Environment for 2010-2011 which will contribute to the government's core priorities in the upcoming year.

The department's mandate reflects our five guiding pieces of legislation: the *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act;* the *Environment Act*; the *Wilderness Areas Protection Act*; the *Special Places Protection Act*; and, the *Water Resources Protection Act*. The department collaborates with other departments and governments as well as a broad range of stakeholders to deliver programs and services to Nova Scotians.

Nova Scotia Environment is now in its second year as a stand alone department. During the past year we developed strategic goals and re-structured the department to ensure our success. Our strategic goals are to:

- achieve desired environmental outcomes;
- cultivate partnerships and environmental stewards;
- enhance service delivery;
- develop dynamic instruments to deliver programs; and,
- foster a winning workplace

Each year, we will establish priorities that take us toward these goals. In 2010-2011 we will continue to deliver on commitments established by the *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act* and the *Climate Change Action Plan*. The department remains committed to the principles of better regulation and continues to improve its regulatory tools, report and demonstrate progress, and help stakeholders comply with our regulations.

During the upcoming year, we look forward to continuing to work with our partners toward a healthy and prosperous Nova Scotia.

Honourable Sterling Belliveau
Minister of Environment

Nancy Vanstone
Deputy Minister of Environment

1. Mandate

The mandate of Nova Scotia Environment is to:

- support and promote the protection, enhancement, and prudent use of the environment (*Environment Act*);
- provide for the establishment, management, protection and use of wilderness areas (*Wilderness Areas Protection Act*);
- provide for the preservation, protection, and study of ecological sites which are considered important parts of the natural heritage of the Province and promote understanding and appreciation of same among the people of the Province (*Special Places Protection Act*);
- conserve and allocate water resources to ensure long-term self-sufficiency and utilization to the greatest benefit of the population and ecosystem (*Water Resources Protection Act*); and
- promote the interconnections between the health of the economy, the environment and the people of the Province and promote the Province's environmental assets as essential to the long-term prosperity of the Province (*Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act*).

2. Vision

Nova Scotia's environment is healthy, well-managed, and supports prosperous communities.

3. Mission

Nova Scotia Environment leads the way to ensure that our environment is valued, protected, and enhanced in partnerships with all Nova Scotians.

4. Performance Measures

MANDATE: ENVIRONMENT ACT					
OUTCOME	**MEASURE**	**DATA – BASE YEAR**	**TARGET**	**TRENDS**	**STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE TARGET**
Clean air	Annual total sulphur dioxide (SO_2) air emissions (**tonnes**) in the province	**1995 cap 189,000**	To maintain total provincial SO_2 emissions below the 2005 cap of 141,750 tonnes, and achieve a 25% reduction in SO_2 emissions from 2001 levels, from facilities emitting > 90 t/yr., by 2010. **2005 cap 141,750** Achieve total provincial emissions no greater than 119,070 tonnes by 2015, and no greater than 70,875 tonnes by 2020 (62.5% less than the 1995 provincial cap) **2015 cap 119,070 2020 cap 70,875**	**164,000 (2001)** 154,000 (2002) 161,000 (2003) 161,000 (2004) 126,500 (2005) 126,281 (2006) 124,300 (2008)	- Regulations targeted at Nova Scotia Power (see next cell); - implementation of sulphur reduction plans prepared by emitters of > 90 tonnes/annum of SO_2; - in 2005, sulphur content of heavy fuel oil capped at 2.2% by mass, and 2.0% on an annual basis; - and further actions as described in the Climate Change Action Plan
	Annual total sulphur dioxide (SO_2) emitted (**tonnes**) to the air by Nova Scotia Power Inc.	**1995 cap 145,000**	Nova Scotia Power Inc. to achieve a 50% reduction in SO_2 emissions from their 1995 cap by 2010 (72,000 tonnes) **2005 cap 108,750 2010 cap 72,500** Nova Scotia Power Inc. to achieve a level of SO_2 emissions no	131,677 (2002) 137,300 (2003) 136,021 (2004) 103,732 (2005) 106,616 (2006) 108,544 (2007) 107,472 (2008)	- Work with NSPI to ensure their emissions are below the regulated cap and that they are still able to meet other emission targets. A report on their emissions will be prepared at the end of the calendar year together with a report on the overall provincial cap

MANDATE: ENVIRONMENT ACT					
OUTCOME	**MEASURE**	**DATA – BASE YEAR**	**TARGET**	**TRENDS**	**STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE TARGET**
			greater than 60,900 tonnes by 2015, and no greater than 36,250 tonnes by 2020 (a full 75% less than their 1995 cap) **2015 cap 60,900 2020 cap 36,250**		
	Annual total mercury air emissions (**kg**) from NSPI's coal-fired electrical power stations	267 (2000)	Maintain the 2010, 65 kg emission cap for NSPI's coal-fired electrical power stations **2005 cap 168 kg 2010 cap 65 kg**	185 (2001) 163 (2002) 158 (2003) 170 (2004) 105 (2005) 162 (2006) 156 (2007) 163 (2008)*	- Work with NSPI to ensure their emissions are below the regulated cap and that they are still able to meet other emission targets. A report on their emissions will be prepared at the end of the calendar year
	Annual total nitrogen oxides (NO_x) emitted (tonnes) to the air by Nova Scotia Power	26,706 (2000)	Nova Scotia Power Inc.'s annual NO_x emissions cap for 2009 is 21,365 tonnes, or 20% less than base year **2009 cap 21,365** Nova Scotia Power Inc. to achieve a level of NO_X emissions no greater than 19,288 tonnes by 2015, and no greater than 14,955 tonnes by 2020 (44% less than base year emissions) **2015 cap 19, 288 2020 cap 14,955**	30, 280 (2002) 32,067 (2003) 33,499 (2004) 32,300 (2005) 28,087 (2006) 25,853 (2007) 21,381 (2008)	-NSPI installed low-NO_X on burner systems at coal-fired stations
Proactive environmental management					
	Number of environmental home	400 (2006-07)	Complete 1000 environmental	1000 (2007-08) 1000	Conduct educational Home

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OUTCOME	**MEASURE**	**DATA – BASE YEAR**	**TARGET**	**TRENDS**	**STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE TARGET**
	assessments completed through Environmental Home Assessment Program (EHAP)		home assessments per year	(2008-09)	Assessments through contracts with community based, non-profit organizations
	number of septic repairs completed with funding from EHAP	64 (2006-07)	200 septic systems repaired annually	175 (2007-08) 252 (2008-09)	provide septic system repair/ replacement grants to low income homeowners whose septic systems are failing
Easier for business to comply with our laws and reduce costs to improve competitiveness and compliance	Reduced time (percentage) spent by business on administrative requirements.	Baseline year (2006-07)	20% less time spent by business on administrative requirements by 2010	7.1% (2007-08) 17.5% (2008-09)	Department-wide workplan to reduce administrative burden.
Efficient and effective program delivery	Average administrative time (days) to process applications for the installation of on-site sewage disposal systems	40 (2000-01)	Applications designated for full review will be processed in 5-7 business days. Overall program improvement. Approval turnaround times will be reduced by two thirds of the previous average turn-around time	28 (2001-02) 28 (2002-03) 20 (2003-04) 25 (2004-05) 20 (2005-06) 20 (2006-07) 16 (2007-08) 2-3 (2008-09)	

*Preliminary data. Final emissions will be verified in 2010.

MANDATE: WILDERNESS AREAS PROTECTION ACT & SPECIAL PLACES PROTECTION ACT					
OUTCOME	**MEASURE**	**DATA – BASE YEAR**	**TARGET**	**TRENDS**	**STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE TARGET**
Protected natural areas	Total hectares of land protected through NS Environment program options	287,028 (2001-02)	Annual: Increase the hectares of land under various protection options Ultimate: Protect 12% (663,125 hectares) of Nova Scotia's total land mass by 2015 Total Land Mass Protected 2007 451,016 ~8.2 % 2008 456,160 ~8.3 % 2009 474,800 ~8.6 %	Protected by NSE 287,320 (2002-03) 287,704 (2003-04) 290,137 (2004-05) 300, 314 (2005-06) 301,154 (2006-07) 301,474 (2007-08) 302,224 (2008-09) 320,533 (2009-10)	- Advance the process for protecting 12% of the total land mass of the province by 2015 by finalizing a conceptual Protected Areas Plan that will be used as the basis for stakeholder and public consultation. - Designate Five Bridge Lakes Candidate Wilderness Area. - Complete the legal designation of lands associated with the 2007 Bowater land purchase. - Establish a candidate wilderness area on lands within the Chignecto Crown land study area.

MANDATE: WATER RESOURCES PROTECTION ACT					
OUTCOME	**MEASURE**	**DATA – BASE YEAR**	**TARGET**	**TRENDS**	**STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE TARGET**
Clean drinking water	Percentage of population served by municipal water supplies that meet the health-based criteria for bacteriological quality, as stated in the *Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality*, at all times during the calendar year	96.5 (2001)	Annual: Maximize the percentage of population served by municipal water supplies that meet the health-based criteria for bacteriological quality Ultimate: All municipal drinking water	96.5 (2002) 95.7 (2003) 98.4 (2004) 98.0 (2005) 98.7 (2006) 98.2 (2007) 98.6 (2008)	- Work with municipalities to achieve full compliance with the drinking water treatment standards - Release and begin implementation of the Water Resource Management Strategy

MANDATE: WATER RESOURCES PROTECTION ACT					
OUTCOME	**MEASURE**	**DATA – BASE YEAR**	**TARGET**	**TRENDS**	**STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE TARGET**
			supplies will meet the Province's treatment standards		

MANDATE: ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY ACT					
OUTCOME	**MEASURE**	**DATA – BASE YEAR**	**TARGET**	**TRENDS**	**STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE TARGET**
Responsible waste management	Annual municipal solid waste disposal rate per capita (Kg/person), compared with the regional and national disposal rates	NS – 416 Atlantic - 569 Canada - 753 (2000)	Maintain the NS disposal rate lower than the national and Atlantic average Achieve a disposal rate of 300 kg/person or lower by 2015	NS - 416 Atlantic - 564 Canada - 760 (2002) NS - 427 Atlantic - 596 Canada - 772 (2004) NS – 430 Atlantic - 610 Canada – 835 (2006)	- Renew the Solid Waste Resource Management Strategy. Actions for the first year will focus on strengthening regulatory effectiveness and decreasing the amount of Construction and Demolition being disposed.
	holistic assessment of NS' prosperity, integrating economic, social and environmental indicators	(methodology under development)	to achieve sustainable economic performance at or above the Canadian average by 2020		- Develop an Action Plan to ensure Nova Scotians understand the concrete benefits of an economy founded on environmental stewardship - Develop and lead a Sustainability Ambassadorship Initiative to increase public awareness and knowledge about sustainable lifestyles - Explore new opportunities for applying Nova Scotia's expertise in solid waste management
	Annual provincial GHG emissions, as	19.0 M tones (1990)	17. 1 M tonnes or less GHG	22.7 M tones (2004)	- Expand ongoing monitoring and

MANDATE: ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY ACT					
OUTCOME	**MEASURE**	**DATA – BASE YEAR**	**TARGET**	**TRENDS**	**STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE TARGET**
	measured by the national inventory, compared with 1990 emission levels		emissions by 2020	21.6 M tones (2005) 20.0 M tones (2006) 20.6 M tones (2007)	reporting of GHG emissions to include a broader range of GHG sources, including those in the public sector - increase understanding of GHG sinks, sources, challenges and opportunities in the NS forestry and agriculture sectors - develop a legislative approach to GHG management, building on current electricity sector GHG regulations
	Ambient fine particulate matter (PM2.5 = less than 2.5 microns), measured annually and averaged over 3 consecutive years	HRM: 14 mg/m3 (2003-05)	30 mg/m3 PM2.5 or less within a 24 hour averaging time by 2010	HRM: 14 mg/m3 (2004-06) 16 mg/m3 (2005-07) 15 mg/m3 (2006-08)	Meet the CWS for particulate matter
	Ambient ground level ozone, averaged over 3 years	HRM: 57ppb (2000-02) CBRM: 49ppb (2000-02)	65 ppb ground ozone or less, with 8 hour averaging, by 2010	HRM: 53ppb (2001-03) 51ppb (2002-04) 46ppb (2003-05) 48ppb (2004-06) 47ppb (2005-07) 51ppb (2006-08) CBRM: 49ppb (2001-03) 46ppb (2002-04) 46ppb (2003-05) 48ppb (2004-06) 50ppb (2005-07) 55ppb (2006-08)	Meet the CWS for ozone
	% of wastewater treatment facilities that provide at least primary treatment	90% (2009)	100% of wastewater treatment facilities provide at least primary treatment by 2017		Work with municipalities to implement the Canada-wide Municipal Wastewater Effluent (MWWE) strategy
	status of regulatory approach and tools	Consultation planned for	developed by 2010		Following consultation, roll out

MANDATE: ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY ACT					
OUTCOME	**MEASURE**	**DATA – BASE YEAR**	**TARGET**	**TRENDS**	**STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE TARGET**
	to stimulate redevelopment of contaminated lands	spring 2010 Release of regulation for public comment planned for fall 2010			a renewed Contaminated Sites Framework
	status of policy preventing the net loss of wetlands	Policy planned for release in spring 2010	policy in place by 2009		Begin implementing the Wetland Policy
	% of septage treatment facilities that are operating in compliance with the guidelines	56% (2009)	at least 95% of septage treatment facilities are operating in compliance with the guidelines by 2011		Completion of septage compliance objectives. Ensure compliance with guidelines

5. Financial Context and Budget

Nova Scotia Environment			
Program and Service Area	**Budget 2009/10 Estimate**	**Budget 2009/10 Forecast**	**Budget 2010/2011 Estimate**
Ordinary Revenues, Fees and Recoveries	6,058	5,768	5,779
TCA Purchase Requirements	1,546	1,546	1,500
Administration	1,032	840	1,031
Policy and Corporate Services	4,497	5,079	4,373
Environmental Monitoring and Compliance	12,021	11,925	12,177
Environmental Science and Program Management	24,965	19,725	33,023
Environment and Sustainable Prosperity	524	765	651
Climate Change Directorate	1,295	1,101	1,522
Total Gross Program Expenses	44,334	39,435	52,777
Funded Staff (FTE's)	278	256	278